<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-35 are still pending in this application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 24 and 34 as being indefinite. These claims have been amended to overcome the §112 rejections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-35 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by *Tso et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,733). Examiner's arguments have been carefully considered and Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as presented below.

<u>The Present Invention</u>

The present invention is a system and method that identifies undesirable content sent from a target server to a user who has requested such content. In order to detect and identify such content from a target server before it arrives at a user's computer, the present invention uses a redirection program that redirects the user's request to a separate proxy server that then communicates with the target server. Before redirecting a user request, the request is scanned to determine whether it is a "request for content". If it is determined to be so, it is redirected to the proxy server. Upon receipt of a response from the target server, the proxy server scans the response for undesirable content such as spam, computer viruses or pornographic material. Thus, the proxy server is able to screen out such undesirable content because the user's original request of the target server has been redirected to a different computer.

As an example, FIGS. 2 and 3 illustrate a situation in which a network gateway computer 206 includes a scan module 310 and a redirection program 208 that causes a user's request to be redirected to a separate proxy server 218 instead of being directed to target server 220. FIG. 5 shows an example of a target server address that has been redirected.

<u>The Cited Art</u>

Tso describes a system that utilizes a "smart" proxy capable of examining data that passes through it and dynamically acting on that data, instead of simply being a conduit for data as are conventional proxies.

7

As shown in FIG. 3 of *Tso*, the invention describes a client computer, a transcoder server 34, and the Internet. Transcoder server 34 ("transcode" is defined as any modification to data) contains a transcoder 20 and is between the client and the Internet.

Transcoder server 34 contains an HTTP remote proxy 36. Proxy 36 differs from other proxies in that, in addition to being a conduit for data, it can act on data by following commands in the data. Server 34 also includes a parser 22 that manages transcoding the data between server 34 and the client.

As shown in FIG. 3, all requests from and replies to a client computer go through the transcoder server 34 before being transmitted to or received from the Internet. As described at column 9, lines 49-60 of *Tso*, the client computer browser is configured to pass all user requests through transcoder server 34.

The Cited Art Distinguished

Claim 1 of the present invention recites a system for identifying undesirable content in responses and has been amended to recite "a scan module that receives the user request for content and is capable of identifying the request as a request for content" and "a proxy module that modifies the request for so that it is redirected to a proxy server."

As discussed above, this redirection of the original request for content from the user is advantageous in that the redirected request will now pass through a proxy server that is arranged to screen out any undesirable content in the response. *Tso* does not teach or suggest a scan module to detect whether the request is a request for content nor does it teach or suggest re-directing the request to a separate proxy server using a redirection program.

In contrast to *Tso*, the claimed invention recites a scan module that receives the user request and is capable of identifying it as a request for content. Only if the user request is request for content is the request redirected to a proxy server by proxy module. *so* describes a system in which the client computer browser is configured to pass all user requests through a transcoder server 34. Thus, there is no need or mention of a scan module or of a proxy module that modifies the request so that it is redirected to a proxy server.

Because this required element of claim 1 is not taught or suggested by *Tso* it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

8

Claim 16 is a method for identifying undesirable content in responses and specifically requires a step of "redirecting the request for content to a proxy server."

As discussed above, this redirecting of the original request for content from the user is performed after the request is identified as a request for content by scanning the request. The redirected request is passed through a proxy server that is arranged to screen out any undesirable content in the response. *Tso* does not teach or suggest the identifying step to determine whether the request is a request for content and, if so, redirecting the request to a separate proxy server using a redirection program. However, the invention as claimed in claim 16 recites an identifying step that includes scanning the request to determine if it is a request for content. Only if the user request is a request for content is it redirected to a proxy server by a proxy module.

Because these required steps of claim 16 are not taught or suggested by *Tso*, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 27 requires a computer readable medium that redirecting a user request for content that is addressed to a target server, and specifically recites instructions for "identifying the request for content by scanning the request for content" and "redirecting the request for content to a proxy server."
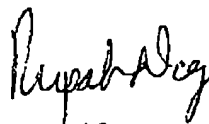
As described above, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere in the disclosure of *Tso* is it suggested or taught that the request be scanned so that it can be identified as a request for content and then redirected to a proxy server if it is identified as a request for content.

The Office Action cites Column 3, lines 8-17 of the specification in *Tso*, but this portion of the specification does not teach or suggest the required component, step or instruction (of claims 1, 16, and 27, respectively) reciting identification and scanning of the request. The Office Action also cites Column 3, lines 31-44 of *Tso* but this portion of the specification does not teach or suggest the required component, step or instruction (of claims 1, 16, and 27) reciting redirection to a proxy server based on the identification and scanning.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

9

Reconsideration of this application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Rupak Nag
Reg. No. 37,493

Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP
P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
Telephone: (612) 252-3335
Facsimile: (612) 825-6304

10